

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00813 140819Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05

OES-07 ERDA-05 FEA-01 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 /116 W

-----128671 150246Z /72

R 131115Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5991

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0813

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, LU

SUBJ: LUXEMBOURG SOCIALIST PARTY VEERS TO THE RIGHT

SUMMARY: ON THE DEVISIVE ISSUES OF AN ABORTION LAW AND A NEW LEGAL STATUS FOR LUXEMBOURG'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, DELEGATES TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY (POSL) NATIONAL CONGRESS ADOPTED MODERATE POSITIONS BY LARGE MAJORITIES. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL CONGRESS WHICH WAS SPLIT INTO NEARLY EQUAL LEFT-RIGHT BLOCS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCTOBER 9, THE POSL HELD ITS ANNUAL NATIONAL

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CONGRESS IN LUXEMBOURG. THE THREE MOST DEVISIVE ISSUES ON THE AGENDA WERE A PROJECT TO LIBERALIZE ABORTION, REFORM OF THE LUXEMBOURG INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ON THE MOSELLE RIVER (LUXEMBOURG A-11 DATED 6/10/76).

CONSIDERATION OF THE NUCLEAR ISSUE WAS POSTPONED TO A SPECIAL CONGRESS IN EARLY DECEMBER.

2. DEBATE ON THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CENTERED ON THE FACT THAT SINCE 1974 THE SOCIALISTS HAVE BEEN ON RECORD AS FAVORING ABOLITION OF THE SERVICE. AT THE CONGRESS, LEFT-WING LEADERS DENOUNCED THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF POSL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO GET RID OF THE SERVICE DURING NEARLY THREE YEARS IN OFFICE. IN RESPONSE, JUSTICE MINISTER ROBERT KRIEPS POINTED OUT THAT POLITICAL REALITIES MAKE ABOLITION OF THE SERVICE IMPOSSIBLE. HE ASKED FOR PARTY SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE THE SERVICE A BRANCH OF THE GOL'S NORMAL SECURITY FORCES (ARMY, POLICE) OPERATING UNDER CLOSE PARLIAMENTARY SURVEILLANCE. 232 DELEGATES VOTED IN FAVOR OF KRIEPS' PROPOSAL AS AGAINST 49 OPPOSED.

3. BY A SIMILAR VOTE OF 242 TO 47, THE CONGRESS ALSO VOICED ITS APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROJECT TO LEGALIZE ABORTION WHEN RECOMMENDED BY A PHYSICIAN. THE LEFT WING OF THE PARTY FAVORED A MUCH GREATER DEGREE OF LIBERALIZATION WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF A DOCTOR'S RECOMMENDATION.

4. COMMENT: THIS YEAR'S LARGE MAJORITY FOR MODERATE POSITIONS ON ABORTION AND THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IS PROBABLY DUE TO A SHIFT IN OUTLOOK OF LABOR LEADERS WHO ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES THAN IDEOLOGICAL QUESTION GIVEN THE CONTINUING RECESSION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GRAND DUCHY. UNION DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS CLEARLY WANTED TO AVOID EMBARRASSING OR WEAKENING THE POSL MINISTERS IN THE LIBERAL/SOCIALIST COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE POSL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNMENT MEMBERS NOW ENJOY A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY WITHIN THEIR PARTY AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT LEFT WING PRESSURES MIGHT FORCE THE POSL OUT OF THE COLAITION GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE 1979 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS HAS BEEN REDUCED TO NEAR ZERO. END COMMENT. LOWENSTEIN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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